

He pledged that Iraq would serve as an example of peace and of freedom—for Iraq, yes, but even more, or equally important, I should say, as an example for the entire region.

The Iraqi people look forward to holding democratic elections and to governing themselves, he told us. But he was quick to say the Iraqi people must have that security in order to rebuild their lives.

It was interesting. When we asked him about the coalition and how broad a coalition, what he said is what the Iraqi people need is not just a broad coalition, but he needs—the Iraqi people need—an effective coalition. It is that effectiveness that ultimately is most important to him as the new President of that country. He needs people who can get the job done for him.

The President was quick to express his thanks on behalf of the Iraqi people and asked us to extend that thanks, that appreciation of the sacrifices Americans have made so the Iraqi people could live in a free country, that they would have that opportunity to live freely and to pursue democracy. He made it clear the full pursuit of democracy will take time. The first step is the election 6 months from now. It may be a series of elections before full-blown democracy, as we generally conceive of democracy, will take hold.

In these difficult times, the President of Iraq stated Iraq would need the full support of the United States of America, both politically, financially, and militarily, as they go through this transition and over the coming months.

He recognized that without a secure and stable environment the U.S. coalition provided, a democratic Iraq simply would not succeed.

President al-Yawr recognized the huge task confronting the new Iraqi government, but he was determined. He expressed that determination in every sentence, in every thought he shared with us. He stated he was encouraged by the widespread support of the Iraqi people for the new interim government.

He clearly draws his strength from the aspirations to transform Iraq into a thriving democracy. President al-Yawr made clear that what is called TAL, transitional administrative law, the law of the land during this interim period, would govern their actions in the coming months, and the rights of all would be protected under this transitional administrative law. His immediate focus is to build those professional security forces to establish an independent judiciary that can uphold that rule of law.

As Iraqis rebuild their capacity to maintain security and govern themselves, the President said the world would see an Iraqi face on the war against terrorism in Iraq. Having met the Prime Minister in Baghdad a week and a half ago, and now the President of Iraq here in the Nation's Capital, the impact of having that Iraqi face, telling the Iraqi story, having it not told

just by Americans or by an occupying force, will make a huge difference on the world stage. It is for the Iraqi people, it is by the Iraqi people, and it is up to the Iraqi people at this point.

No nation wants to rely on another for its security. The President of Iraq expressed that. The Iraqi people want to stand on their own strength. But they need help through this transition period. He also made it clear that to rely upon a coalition while they are rebuilding their police and their army is not a surrender of their sovereignty in any way. Indeed, it is in Iraq's vital national security interests to accept the coalition's help, he stated.

Having now met with Iraq's two most senior leaders over the last 12 days, I am confident these two leaders and this new government is a strong one. They have the vision, they have the fortitude, they clearly have the courage, but they also have the resolve to lead the Iraqi people on this path toward freedom and democracy.

Indeed, Iraq's new leaders have the confidence of our friends in the region. Senator DASCHLE, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator BIDEN, and I all met with King Abdullah of Jordan this week in the Capitol. His Majesty expressed his confidence in and support of the new Iraqi government, as well. That is, again, a perspective from a very important, very significant leader in that part of the world.

It is important to praise President Bush and his team for their vision, for their resolve, and their efforts to get the United Nations and the international community behind this government. That has been a successful endeavor.

We are all concerned about the recent terrorist activity in Iraq. As I have mentioned in the Senate in the last couple of days, an increase in terrorist activity is anticipated. It is expected by the Iraqi leaders and by our civilian and military leaders because the terrorist groups—whether it is the Zarqawi network, whether it is the former regime loyalists, or whether it is the insurgents—will increase activity to derail this transition of sovereignty to the new government. They are not going to be successful. Yet we will see that increased terrorist activity. Indeed, we see the increased activity when we open the news each morning.

The terrorists want to disrupt this handoff. They are simply not going to be successful. They do not want to see the Iraqi people breathe that fresh air of freedom. They will not be successful. Indeed, we will win.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the remainder of the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2400, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2400) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, so forth and for other purposes.

Pending:

Bond modified amendment No. 3384, to include certain former nuclear weapons program workers in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness compensation Program and to provide for the disposal of certain excess Department of Defense stocks for funds for that purpose.

Brownback amendment No. 3235, to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language.

Burns amendment No. 3457 (to amendment No. 3235), to provide for additional factors in indecency penalties issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of the two managers, I am reporting today that we will have two amendments by the Senator from Illinois that will be offered, two amendments by the Senator from New Jersey will be offered, an amendment by the Senator from Rhode Island will be offered, and I will offer an amendment. That is the schedule for today's session.

Of course, as the majority indicated, there will not be any votes. If the managers require votes, and these are not accepted, these votes will be stacked for Monday night in addition to amendments offered Monday that were announced at an earlier time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

AMENDMENT NO. 3196

Mr. DURBIN. I call up amendment No. 3196.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The pending amendment will be set aside.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. BIDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 3196.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred)

At the appropriate place, insert the following: